



# Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **United States v. Richard M. Oakes**

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced today that Richard M. Oakes, 50, of Massena, New York, was arrested today in connection with a criminal complaint filed in the United States District Court in Syracuse. The complaint alleges that Oakes, a licensed federal firearms dealer who operates *Straight Shooters* in Massena, willfully failed to record the identity of a firearms purchaser in his records as required by law, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922 (b)(5). The felony offense carries a maximum possible sentence of up to five (5) years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000.00, a special assessment of \$100, and a term of supervised release. The complaint alleges that the defendant sold a Colt CAR-A3, .223 caliber semiautomatic rifle to an undercover New York State Police Investigator on December 16, 2009 as part of a "straw purchase" wherein the firearm was actually paid for and received by a person prohibited by law from doing so.

ATF Special Agents and members of the New York State Police, Troop B, Gun Investigation Unit today also executed a federal search warrant at the defendant's residence and place of business.

The defendant is presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in a court of law. This case is being jointly investigated by the ATF Syracuse Resident Office and the New York State Police, Troop B, Gun Investigation Unit. Further inquiries may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Richard R. Southwick at 315-448-0672.